BENGALURU, SATURDAY, MARCH 29, 2025 www.Bangaloremirror.com 16 Pages PRICE ₹4

Bangalore Mirror ON SATURDAY

TEMP Max 34 | Min 23 | Humidity 33% Partly Cloudy Sensex 77,414 | Nifty 23,519 | Gold 88,910 | Silver 100,854 | Dollar 85.51 | Euro 92.72 | GBP 110.80

SOURCE UNKNOWN

Neither BBMP, nor residents of area know where sewage flowing into dhobi ghat at Halasuru is coming from

PAGE 4

QUACK, QUACK

Health dept checks identify 967 fake doctors in 18 months; 228 illegal clinics shut down across state

PAGE 9

Completely dried-up plants at boulevards on MG Road are a picture of utter neglect and lack of coordination; leave aside the aesthetics and ethics of this, in dry season these spots are even a fire hazard

WITHERING HEIGHTS

Planter box, name board turn hurdles for pedestrians

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PICS: KAUSHIK JN

The condition of the footpath on MG Road has made one thing obvious — there is a complete breakdown of communication and coordination between the horticulture and engineering departments of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP). It is a known fact that the BBMP has been spending a lot of money for planting saplings and development of boulevards at the Central Business District, especially on Mahatma Gandhi Road. However, most of the saplings planted on the footpath along the compound of Additional Director General of Police, Communication, Logistics & Modernisation have dried up due to lack water and maintenance.

The stretch along the ADGP office compound was a destination for pedestrians and walkers a few years ago but now it looks like an abandoned place. "It seems the BBMP Horticulture

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10 »

"It seems the BBMP Horticulture Department has forgotten about the existence of this boulevard that was developed a few years ago. The dry plants highlight the negligence of BBMP

Nagaraj N, pedestrian

First step falters

Uncertainty looms over LKG-UKG admissions in anganwadi centres

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The Women and Child Development Department has yet to make preparations for the admission of students to pre-primary education (LKG-UKG) in Anganwadi centres. Due to a lack of funds, there are doubts about whether admissions will take place this year.

In July last year, the department launched a pilot project introducing LKG-UKG in an Anganwadi centre in Rajajinagar. It was announced that classes would soon begin in 250 centres across the city in the first phase. However, funds have not yet been released, raising uncertainty about new admissions this year.

An activist said, "To effectively conduct LKG-UKG classes, facilities like smart classrooms, playgrounds, and essential educational materials are required. Each centre was promised a grant of 5 lakh, which would cover infrastructure, teacher training, and provisions such as uniforms, bags, and books for children. However, despite the official programme launch, no progress has been made."

Parents disappointed

Sunita Kumari, like many other parents, who were waiting for this facility, feel let down. She said, "Private schools charge anywhere between Rs 20,000 to Rs 1 lakh for LKG-UKG admissions, pushing many

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Classical performance

The Articulate Trust for Arts is presenting Articulate Festival 06, an evening dedicated to the rich heritage of Indian classical dance. This prestigious event will showcase three remarkable solo performances by some of the country's most revered artists. **Where: ADA Rangamandira, JC Road; When: March 29, 6 pm**

02 Rock n roll

Windmills is presenting an electrifying musical experience as Trio Bobo teams up with the phenomenal Varijashree Venugopal for an unforgettable evening of jazz rock. **Where: Windmills, Whitefield; When: March 28 and 29, 9.30 pm onwards**

03 Artistic discussion

International Music and Arts Society and BIC are presenting 'Lines as Notes', where two shorts films by SG Vasudev will be screened, followed by

a panel discussion with journalist Anupam Bijur, art and music historian Dr Pramila Lochan, moderated by writer Indira Chandrashekhar. **Where: Bangalore International Centre, Domlur; When: March 29, 6.30**

04 Unique experience

oxy Bengaluru Airport is presenting Polar Plunge Bangalore, a guided ice bath experience. The immersive session will introduce

participants to the physical and mental health benefits of cold exposure, combining expert-led techniques with a unique resilience-building experience. **Where: Moxy Bengaluru Airport, Navarathna Agrahara; When: March 29, 5 pm**

05 All in jest

Gaurav Gupta, the renowned stand-up comedian, is going to be presenting his sharp wit and distinctive style in his new performance. He will be bringing a fresh perspective on life in Delhi, his cultural roots, and everyday social scenarios. **Where: Fan Park, 2nd Floor, Phoenix Mall of Asia; When: March 29, 5 pm and 8 pm**

Can't withhold entire pension for EMI lapse: HC

Court restricts full recovery of pension unless retired employee is guilty of serious crimes, states pension provides economic security and sustains pensioners in old age

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The Karnataka High Court has criticised a public sector bank's decision to deduct the complete monthly pension of a retired staff member against a defaulted loan, noting that such a severe action would undermine the fundamental purpose of pension provision.

The Court emphasized that recovering the entire pension for loan dues violates Article 21 of the Constitution of India. "A pensioner would not be in a position to get re-employment, and if the pensioner is depending only on the pension, then the life of his family would be in financial distress," the Court noted. These remarks were made by Justice SG Pandit whilst partially accepting a petition from 70-year-old Murugan OK, a former Canara Bank employee residing in Kerala.

The petitioner had obtained two housing loans during his employment and stood as guarantor for his daughter's education loan. Upon his retirement in 2014, the bank arranged for him to settle the outstanding loan through fixed monthly instalments (EMIs). Following his failure to pay several EMIs, the bank began withholding his entire pension from July 2024 against the loan accounts, as he owed Rs 8.41 lakh, and dismissed his request to continue the EMI arrangement.

The petitioner had obtained two housing loans during his employment and stood as guarantor for his daughter's education loan. Following his failure to pay several EMIs, the bank began withholding his entire pension from July 2024

Court defends pensioners

The Court highlighted that bank regulations do not allow the full recovery of pension from retired staff for loan defaults. It clarified that withholding a complete pension is permissible only in cases where the employee is found guilty or the pensioner is convicted of serious crimes such as criminal breach of trust, forgery, fraud, or grave misconduct.

The Court emphasized that pension is not a bounty but deferred payment for services rendered by an employee. It also noted that pension is provided by the State to support pensioners' livelihood in their later years. "The pension gives economic security to the petitioner. The pension could be called a reward for giving his best in the heyday of life of an employee," the Court stated.

50% deduction limit

The Court highlighted that loan deductions should not surpass 50% of take-home salary for serving employees, as per standard banking practice, and determined that this principle should apply to the petitioner's situation. The Court authorised the bank to deduct only 50% of the petitioner's monthly pension towards the loan, whilst maintaining the bank's right to pursue other legal means to recover the secured loan amount.

FIR orders require police input

The Karnataka High Court has issued instructions requiring all trial courts to obtain submissions from the jurisdictional police station's officer before ordering First Information Report (FIR) registration and investigation. This directive applies when exercising power under Section 175(3) of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) for private complaints registered under Section 223 of BNSS.

Justice M Nagaprasanna observed that numerous cases reveal trial courts' non-compliance with conditions specified in Section 175 or Section 223 of BNSS. Under the new legislation, courts must mandatorily consult police officers before directing investigation on private complaints.

The court highlighted that Section 175(3) of BNSS differs significantly from Section 156(3) of Indian Penal Code (IPC), as it necessitates obtaining the investigating police officer's opinion before referring matters for investigation. The court referenced a recent Supreme Court judgment in "Om Prakash Ambedkar Vs State of Maharashtra" which noted that the modifications in Section 175(3) of BNSS essentially codified judicial interpretations of IPC provisions. These changes aim to prevent misuse of magisterial powers by litigants pursuing ulterior motives. — BMB

Traffic signal pioneer passes away at 96

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SRI C.CHANDY, IPS
COMMISSIONER OF POLICE
SRI B.N. GARUDACHAR, IPS
DCP, TRAFFIC

Retired Director General and Inspector General of Police (DG & IGP) BN Garudachar passed away in the early hours of March 28, at the age of 96. Family sources confirmed that arrangements have been made for the final viewing at his residence on Krishna Road, Basavanagudi. During the tenure of Bengaluru's first Police Commissioner, C Chandy, Garudachar served as the Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) of the Traffic Division. In 1963, he installed Bengaluru's first traffic signal at NR Junction (near the LIC office) to manage increasing traffic congestion. Garudachar, father of Chickpet BJP MLA Uday B Garudachar, held several key positions, including Superintendent of Police (SP) in multiple districts, DCP of Bengaluru, and later as the Commissioner of Bengaluru City Police. He retired as DG & IGP, leaving behind a legacy in Karnataka's law enforcement history. — BMB

Ticket fares hike ahead of festive season

As Ugadi approaches, private bus operators have once again hiked ticket prices drastically, forcing travellers heading home for the festival to pay exorbitant fares. Despite repeated instances of fare hikes during festive seasons, transport department officials have failed to regulate private bus operators. Initial enforcement actions are often taken, but they soon fizzle out, leaving passengers at the mercy of these arbitrary price increases.

From the night of March 28, private bus fares from Bengaluru to various destinations have surged nearly threefold, leaving passengers with no choice but to pay high prices to reach their hometowns. Ticket prices for key routes have skyrocketed, with Bengaluru-Madikeri fares rising from ₹500-600 to ₹1000-1500, Bengaluru-Udupi from ₹600-950 to ₹1700-2000, and Bengaluru-Dharwad from ₹800-1200 to ₹2300-3500. Similarly, Bengaluru-Belagavi fares have jumped from ₹1000-1200 to ₹2500-3000, Bengaluru-Shivamogga from ₹600-800 to ₹1500, Bengaluru-Mangaluru from ₹800-1200 to ₹2200-3000, and Bengaluru-Kalaburagi from ₹1000-1300 to ₹2500-3000, making travel significantly costlier.

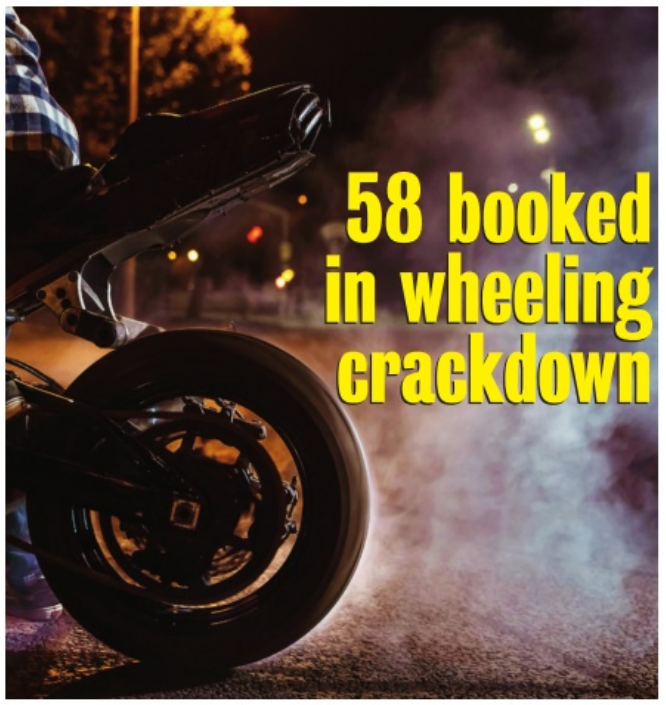
Additional KSRTC buses

In response to the holiday rush, the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) has announced the deployment of 2,000 additional buses between March 28 and 30 to cater to passengers travelling to various districts and states. On March 31, extra buses will also be operated for return journeys to Bengaluru. — BMB

Prasada to be delivered at home

The Karnataka Religious Endowment Department has launched an E-Prasada service to deliver offerings from 14 major temples directly to devotees' homes. The service was inaugurated on Thursday by Muzrai Minister Ramalinga Reddy at the Transport Department office in Shantinagar. "Through the E-Prasada service, devotees can now place orders and receive temple

offerings at their doorstep. This initiative is based on a 'No Loss, No Profit' model, and Prasada delivery will be available for a nominal charge between ₹100 and ₹200," the Minister said. Devotees can place their orders through the official website *https://csc.devalayas.com* — BMB



58 booked in wheeling crackdown

In a crackdown on wheeling offenders, the Bengaluru Traffic Police booked 58 cases, seized 58 vehicles, and arrested 45 individuals during a special drive conducted on Thursday, across the city. The enforcement drive was part of a sustained effort by the department to ensure safer roads and curb dangerous stunts on public streets.

Despite several such drives, the menace of wheeling continues to plague city roads, often putting pedestrians and other motorists at risk. Shockingly, in a recent incident, hooligans fearlessly performed wheelies right in front of the Chief Minister's residence, near the Windsor Manor Bridge, under the High Grounds Traffic Police Station limits. The offenders were seen pulling dangerous stunts on three bikes, including a scooter without a number plate, during night hours when police patrols were limited.

Commissioner of police B Dayananda stated, "We have also directed our officers to intensify patrolling, especially during Ramzan, when such activities tend to increase at night." He further mentioned that in some serious cases, rowdy sheets have been opened against habitual offenders involved in wheeling, highlighting the department's resolve to take strict action.

The police have reiterated that such special drives will continue across Bengaluru in the coming weeks to ensure stringent enforcement of traffic rules. —**BMB**

Bigg Boss duo gets bail

The court granted conditional bail to Vinay and Rajat, directing them to submit a Rs 1 lakh bond each

The 24th Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (ACMM) Court on Thursday granted conditional bail to former Bigg Boss contestants Vinay Gowda and Rajat, who were in police custody for allegedly brandishing a machete while shooting a social media reel.

According to S Girish, Deputy Commissioner of Police, West, Bengaluru, the video, which was shared as a reel on Instagram under the account "Bujji," quickly gained attention on social media and drew criticism for violating public safety norms.

An FIR was registered at Basaveshwar Nagar Police Station after the video went viral.

The duo was arrested under the Arms Act, 1959, and the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, following a complaint after a video surfaced of them creating a reel using machetes, locally known as 'macchu' in Kannada. The clip, resembling a scene from a movie, was filmed for a song from actor Darshan's film Majestic. According to officials, holding weapons in public and filming such content is a serious offence under the law, as it can incite fear and create panic among the public.

S Girish, DCP West Bengaluru, stated, "Carrying and reeling weapons in public, creating an atmosphere of fear, is an offence under the law. An FIR has been registered against the accused accordingly."

Vinay and Rajat were produced before the 24th ACMM court yesterday by a team of seven police officers after the completion of their police custody. The prosecution sought judicial custody, citing that the machete used for filming the reel had not yet been recovered. However, defence counsel Prakash argued for bail, assuring the court that the duo would fully cooperate with the investigation. After hearing both sides, the court granted conditional bail to Vinay and Rajat. The court directed them to submit a bond of ₹1 lakh each and strictly instructed them not to tamper with evidence or repeat such acts in the future. —**BMB**

Suitcase murder: Victim's husband detained

A murder case came to light in Dodda Kammanahalli under Hulimavu police station limits after the body of a woman was found stuffed in a suitcase inside her apartment. The accused, Rakesh, originally from Maharashtra, was detained by the Pune police on Thursday based on information shared by the Hulimavu police.

Rakesh and his wife, Gauri, had rented a house in Dodda Kammanahalli just a month ago and were working in the software sector. According to police sources, the couple had frequent arguments. After a heated quarrel, Rakesh allegedly murdered Gauri by slitting her throat. He later stuffed her body into a suitcase and attempted to dispose of it.

The incident came to light when neighbours noticed a foul smell from the apartment and alerted the house owner. The owner, in turn, informed the police. On inspection, the police discovered the suitcase containing Gauri's mutilated body. CCTV footage revealed that around 12:30 am, Rakesh left the house, took a parked car, and fled.

After fleeing, Rakesh called his family, claiming Gauri had died by suicide. He also informed the building's tenants before switching off his phone. However, while travelling towards Mumbai, Rakesh consumed poison near Shirwal, Maharashtra. He was admitted to Sassoon Hospital, Pune, where the police took him into custody.

Hulimavu police have reached Pune and are preparing to bring Rakesh back to Bengaluru once he recovers for further investigation. The motive behind the murder is yet to be confirmed. According to City Police Commissioner B Dayanand, the complete details will emerge only after Rakesh's formal interrogation. —**BMB**

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Murky sewage mystery at Halasuru Dhobi Ghat

Residents struggle with foul odour, mosquito menace, and health risks as BBMP remains unresponsive

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(Left) Dirty water flowing into dhobi ghat at MV Garden near Halasuru; (Right) Sewage accumulated in dhobi ghat near MV Garden, Halasuru

The source of sewage water flowing into the Dhobi Ghat at Halasuru remains a mystery for residents of MV Garden, Gupta Layout, washermen at the ghat, and the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) engineers. While washermen fear safety risks during heavy monsoons, residents of MV Garden and surrounding areas see the contaminated water as a serious health hazard and nuisance.

"We have complained to the BBMP and BWSSB engineers about this nuisance but in vain. They simply told us that they will look into it but did nothing till date," said BR Chandran, a social activist.

Residents complain that the foul odour from stagnant dirty water at the Dhobi Ghat has made it difficult to live in the area. "The dirty water in the drain has become a breeding ground for mosquitoes. We want BBMP authorities to keep the Dhobi Ghat free from weeds and stagnant water," said Bhavani Shanthakumar, a homemaker from MV Garden.

Some washermen have complained that the Dhobi Ghat has turned into a dumping ground for all kinds of garbage. "We want to clean the place, but defense personnel object since the land is under dispute. The area gets flooded whenever it rains heavily during the monsoon," said a washerman on condition of anonymity.

A six-foot-deep sinkhole appeared at Kensington Signal Junction on Bhaskaran Road, near Halasuru Lake and a few hundred meters from the Dhobi Ghat, in December 2023. Residents and social activists believe authorities must identify the source of the dirty water flowing into the Dhobi Ghat to prevent future sinkholes. "This is the right time to find and fix the issue while the road is closed for white-topping," said a resident.

Condemning authorities concerned for not evincing interest to fix the problem, Kumar, a resident of MV Garden, said that the BBMP authorities have to take measures to ensure surroundings clean by stopping dirty water flowing into the dhobi ghat. "It is the responsibility of the authorities to find out the source of sewage water. I find it tough to cope with bad odour emanating from stagnated sewage water," said Kumar. Meanwhile, BBMP Executive Engineer was unavailable for comment.

BBMP plans ₹10 crore revamp for Chikkabellandur lake

After years of neglect, Chikkabellandur Lake, once reduced to a dumping ground, is set to undergo a ₹10 crore rejuvenation initiative by the BBMP. Spanning 54 acres, the lake was brought under BBMP's jurisdiction in 2010, but a lack of maintenance led to its deterioration, turning it into a sewage dump. Despite repeated demands from local residents and lake conservation activists, BBMP had failed to act until now. Sources said that with funds allocated under the National Disaster Fund, BBMP is preparing to float tenders for restoring 10 lakes, including Hebbal, Nagawara, Chikkabeguru, Chikkabellandur, Sompura, KR Puram, Anekal, and Halasuru, at a total cost of ₹75 crore. Currently, the lake has three inflow channels, two of which are completely blocked, while the third carries only wastewater. Unauthorized road construction and indiscriminate dumping of medical waste have further worsened its condition. Although partial fencing was installed last year, no significant restoration work has been undertaken so far. An official said, "Under the flood prevention and disaster management fund, the lake's rejuvenation is set to begin by June. The Detailed Project Report (DPR) has been approved, and tendering will commence soon." However, Praveen D, a local activist, said, "Whenever we demanded action, BBMP cited a lack of funds. Now that the budget is available, the priority should be clearing encroachments, opening all blocked inlets, removing eucalyptus trees, and preventing sewage from entering the lake."

Traffic police ensuring safety and smooth flow on Bengaluru's roads

Swift action keeps traffic moving

Police clear hazardous debris from the road, preventing accidents and delays for commuters

Bengaluru's traffic police once again demonstrated that their duty goes beyond managing traffic—they are also protectors of public safety. On Thursday evening, a routine patrol turned into an act of service when Sub-Inspector Mariswamy and Constable Siddhartha swiftly cleared hazardous glass shards from Kempegowda Road, preventing potential accidents. The incident occurred around 7:30 PM in front of the Revenue House when a private bus collided with a soda cart, overturning it and shattering dozens of soda bottles across the road. The broken glass posed an immediate danger to passing vehicles, increasing the risk of tire punctures. "The officers' prompt response ensured the road was safe for commuters," said Sivaprasad S, a BM reader.

He said that upon being alerted, Mariswamy and Siddhartha, who were on duty at Mysore Bank Circle, rushed to the scene without hesitation. With nothing but their dedication to public safety, they personally cleared the glass fragments, ensuring smooth traffic flow and preventing potential damage and delays for motorists.

"The soda vendor, already reeling from financial loss due to the broken bottles, had fled the scene in distress. However, the traffic cops took it upon themselves to restore order and ensure no further mishaps occurred. Their quick response not only averted damage to multiple vehicles but also demonstrated a compassionate side of law enforcement that often goes unnoticed. For the drivers who could have suffered punctures and delays, this small but significant act of service did not go unappreciated. On behalf of all motorists, we extend our gratitude to these dedicated officers, whose efforts ensured safety and kept Bengaluru's traffic moving", he added.

Nanda Gopal, a civic activist, said, "We often criticise the police and highlight their shortcomings, but stories like these remind us of the countless times they go beyond their duty to serve the public. From standing in the scorching sun and pouring rain to ensuring smooth traffic flow to stepping in during emergencies without hesitation, their dedication often goes unnoticed. Incidents like this, where officers took it upon themselves to clear broken glass and prevent accidents, highlight the humane side of law enforcement. It's a reminder that behind the uniform are individuals committed to keeping our city safe, often without expecting recognition or appreciation." — BMB

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Garbage pileup

Sahakar Nagar

A large heap of uncollected trash has remained uncleared for a long time at 14th Main, Block F, Sahakar Nagar.

Sewage overflow

RR Nagar

Sewage water is spilling into stormwater drains behind Nimishamba Temple in Ideal Homes, RR Nagar, posing health hazards.

Footpath encroachment

Jayanagar

Pedestrians struggle as vehicles encroach on footpaths near Aadhar Seva Kendra, Patalamma Temple Road, and South End Circle.

March 31 checklist:

Key financial & tax deadlines

As March 31, 2025, approaches, several financial deadlines and regulatory changes are set to take effect, impacting taxpayers, investors, credit card users, and digital payment customers. From the last opportunity to invest in Mahila Samman Savings Certificate to the updated UPI mobile number verification rule, individuals must take timely action to optimise their savings, investments, and compliance.

The deadline to file updated ITR is also approaching fast, with higher penalties for those filing returns after March 31. Special Fixed Deposit (FD) schemes offered by leading banks will end soon.

1 Mahila Samman Savings Certificate investment deadline

Under the Mahila Samman Savings Certificate scheme, only women and girls are eligible to invest, and guardians can invest on behalf of minor girls. The minimum amount required to open an account is Rs 1,000, while the maximum permissible investment is Rs 2 lakh per individual.

The last date to invest in the Mahila Samman Savings Certificate is March 31, 2025.

2 Changes in UPI rule

UPI apps will ask users for clear and explicit consent before assigning or updating their numeric UPI ID. By default, users should be opted out and must actively choose to opt in if they wish to use this feature. Apps cannot ask for this consent during a transaction to avoid confusion.

3 Updated ITR deadline

A taxpayer can file an updated return within two years from the end of the relevant assessment year. However, the additional tax liability varies depending on the timing of the filing:

Before March 31, 2025: 25% of the tax and interest due if filed within the first 12 months of the extended period. After March 31, 2025: 50% of the tax and interest due if filed between 12-24 months of the extended period.

4 Small Savings Schemes - Interest rates may change

The government revises the interest rates of the Post Office Small Savings Scheme every quarter. In December, it kept the rates unchanged for the fourth consecutive time for January–March. The latest rates for April–June will be announced by March 31, 2025.

5 Tax-saving before March 31

As the financial year draws to a close, taxpayers must ensure they have completed their tax-saving investments and declarations before March 31. Proper planning can help individuals minimise their tax liability while also securing their financial future.

It should be noted that individuals under the new regime are not eligible for tax-saving investments.

6 PM Internship Scheme (PMIS) deadline

The PM Internship Scheme (PMIS) is a government initiative announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the Union Budget 2024-25. The registration deadline for the scheme has been extended to March 31, 2025. To secure an internship opportunity, you must complete your application before this date. Earlier, the deadline for registration was March 12, 2025. **–ET Online**

2% hike in DA for Central Govt staffers

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday approved a 2% increase in Dearness Allowance (DA) for central government employees and Dearness Relief (DR) for pensioners.

"The Union approved to release of an additional instalment of DA to Central Government employees and Dearness Relief (DR) to pensioners w.e.f. 01.01.2025 representing an increase of 2% over the existing rate of 53% of the Basic Pay/Pension, to compensate against price rise."

This will benefit about 48.66 lakh Central Government employees and 66.55 lakhs pensioners.

With this revision, DA will rise from 53% to 55%, providing a salary boost for employees ahead of the anticipated 8th Pay Commission.

The combined impact on the exchequer on account of increase in both Dearness Allowance and Dearness Relief would be Rs. 6614.04 crore per annum.

This increase is in accordance with the accepted formula, which is based on the recommendations of the 7th Central Pay Commission.

The last increase occurred in July 2024, when DA was raised from 50% to 53%.

What is DA?: Dearness Allowance (DA) is a financial benefit provided to government employees to offset inflation and ensure their salaries remain in line with rising living costs. **ET Online**

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K'taka forest cover dwindles as over 100 hectares cleared

Over 32,000 hectares of forest lost to projects; experts warn of ecological crisis

Garima Prasher
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

State spans 1,91,791 sq km, of which, just over 40,000 sq km remain under forest cover

Amid growing concerns over Karnataka's fast-depleting forest cover, the state has diverted more than 100 hectares of forest land for non-forestry purposes this year.

Between April and December 2024, a total of 113.43 hectares of forest land was diverted for seven development and infrastructure projects. The diversions were made to facilitate transmission lines, mining, and road development work. Of this, 61.90 hectares were allocated for transmission lines, 25.91 hectares for mining, and 25.62 hectares for road development projects.

In total, Karnataka has diverted 32,118.97 hectares of forest land for 804 development and infrastructure projects over the years. The largest portion—10,246.74 hectares—has gone to mining and allied activities, followed by 5,227.35 hectares for hydel power projects.

As of December 2024, Karnataka's forest area stands at 21.21% of its total geographical area. While the state spans 1,91,791 square kilometres, just over 40,000 square kilometres remain under forest cover.

The National Forest Policy of India recommends that at least 33% of a region's total geographical area should be under forest cover to maintain ecological stability.

Karnataka's forest cover, at 21.21%, is far below the 33% recommended by the National Forest Policy, raising ecological concerns. Large-scale diversions for mining, transmission lines, and roads threaten balance

Conservationists argue that the state's low forest cover is largely due to the diversion of forest land for development projects.

In November last year, the National Green Tribunal (NGT), alarmed by the rapid depletion of forest cover, directed the Karnataka Forests and Ecology Department—along with all other states and union territories—to submit a report on tree loss and green cover reduction.

While experts acknowledge the need for infrastructure and development, they stress the importance of assessing the carrying capacity of forest areas to ensure sustainable growth.

"Forest cover and infrastructure projects must be balanced to maintain ecological stability. However, Karnataka's forest cover remains well below the target set by the National Forest Policy.

Panel to check reservoirs

To address potential drinking water shortages during the summer, the Karnataka government has decided to form a technical committee to oversee water management in major reservoirs across the state.

The committee, headed by the Chief Secretary, will include experts tasked with ensuring efficient water distribution. Law Minister HK Patil said it will manage reservoir levels to prevent shortages.

In addition, the Cabinet approved proposals to declare areas surrounding Bankapur Wolf Sanctuary, Uttare Gudda Wildlife Sanctuary, and Arasikere Bear Sanctuary as eco-sensitive zones. A revised proposal for Bhadra Wildlife Sanctuary was also endorsed based on recommendations from a Cabinet sub-committee.

The state government will now submit these proposals to the Centre for final approval. –BMB

Public toilet for third gender in city

India's first dedicated public toilet for the third gender was inaugurated on Friday in front of Upparpet Police Station. The facility, developed in collaboration with Rotary International District 3192 and Sulabh International, marks a significant step toward inclusive public infrastructure.

Speaking at the event, Rotary International (RI) Director KP Nagesh highlighted Rotary's long-standing commitment to social service. "For the first time in the country, a separate toilet has been built for the third gender. This initiative aims to create gender-neutral and accessible sanitation facilities across all districts under the CSR grant," he said.

RI V Srinivasa Murthy, Charter Governor of District 3192, called it a model for future public infrastructure projects, emphasising its role in making cities more inclusive. –BMB

SWR nears 100% electrification, saves ₹388 crore, cuts emissions

Sridhar.Vivan
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TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

SWR operates a 3,692 km railway network

The South Western Railway (SWR) is on the verge of eliminating diesel usage, with 92% of its routes already electrified. The railway division aims to achieve 100% electrification by the end of this year, significantly reducing carbon emissions and promoting environmental sustainability.

As part of its green initiative, SWR has saved 44,948 kilolitres (KL) of high-speed diesel until January 2025, resulting in financial savings of ₹388 crore. In comparison, ₹351 crore has been spent on purchasing 494 million units of electricity to power electric trains, reflecting a marginal difference in expenditure. However, electrification is a crucial step towards sustainability, curbing carbon emissions and reducing reliance on fossil fuels.

SWR operates a 3,692 km railway network, with 3,396 km already electrified and 152 trains running on electric routes. The remaining sections, including the Bagalkot and Castle Rock-Kulem routes, are expected to be completed by June 2025, while the Subrahmanya-Sakleshpur section is set to be electrified within the next 10 months. Chief Public Relations Officer Dr Manjunath Kanamadi stated that electrification has steadily reduced fuel consumption, and full electrification is on track for completion within the year. The railway will source electricity through Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited (KPTCL).

> **"With 92% of routes already electrified, we have saved ₹388 crore by reducing diesel consumption, despite the 351 crore spent on electricity.** –Dr Manjunath Kanamadi, Chief Public Relations Officer of SWR

Between 2021-22 and 2024-25, diesel usage declined from 9,279 KL to 44,948 KL, leading to cost savings that rose from ₹41 crore to 388 crore. Meanwhile, electricity consumption increased from 168 million units in 2021-22 to 494 million units in 2024-25, with associated costs rising from ₹114 crore to ₹351 crore.

In-patient care, in the true sense

Concerned about the financial burden on economically disadvantaged patients traveling long distances for medical check-ups, Karnataka Medical Education Minister Sharan Prakash Patil on Friday directed officials at the Kidwai Memorial Institute of Oncology (KMIO) to admit such patients as in-patients until their final health reports are issued.

During a recent review at KMIO, Patil questioned why bed occupancy was below 70% despite the high daily influx of patients. Officials explained that beds were allocated only after a final diagnosis, leaving many patients without accommodation while awaiting test results.

In response, Patil instructed the hospital to change its policy, ensuring patients—especially those from northern Karnataka—receive temporary in-patient care. He noted that many cannot afford private lodging in Bengaluru. –BMB

CRIME FILES

Domestic helper vanishes with gold, arrested

A domestic worker who fled with gold ornaments worth ₹12 lakh from his employer's residence was tracked down to a hotel in Madhya Pradesh after an extensive investigation. The accused, Pankaj Kumar (28), had been working as a domestic helper for nearly two years before committing the theft.

The complainant, a resident of Sarjapur Main Road under Bellandur police station limits, filed a case on March 5. The domestic helper had been working for two years but went missing on March 4, along with 141 grams of gold. The complainant returned home to find the valuables stolen and suspected the worker.

Bellandur Police arrested the accused, who was hiding at a hotel within the Jayadpur police station limits in Shahdol district of Madhya Pradesh. He was apprehended on March 17 and during interrogation, confessed to the crime.

The probe further revealed that the stolen gold had been pledged at a branch of Manpuram Gold in the Sahadol district. —BMB

Man steals from tenant's house

A 26-year-old man was arrested for stealing gold jewellery worth ₹4.90 lakh from a tenant's house. The theft occurred in the Hanumantha Nagar locality, where the complainant, Vinay, a resident of Srinivasanagar, reported the crime to the local police on March 17.

According to the complaint, Vinay had locked his house on the night of March 15 and left with his family to attend his daughter's christening. Upon returning on March 17, he discovered that 70 grams of gold jewellery was missing from a cupboard. Suspicion fell on the landlord, as there was no sign of forced entry.

The police initiated an investigation and focused on the homeowner's family. On March 23, they arrested the landlord's son at a bus stand in Srinivasanagar. During interrogation, the accused confessed to the crime, revealing that he had used the spare key to enter the rented house while the tenant was away. He stole the gold jewellery from the cupboard and hid it at his residence. On March 24, he was presented in court, where the Court remanded him to judicial custody.

Theft at wedding lodge

A man who broke into a lodge room during a family wedding function and made away with gold jewellery, mobile phones, and two stolen two-wheelers, collectively worth ₹3.15 lakh. Bagalur police have arrested the accused, identified as Abdul Rehman

The case was registered after a complaint was filed on March 20 by a resident of MSR Nagar. According to the complaint, the family had booked 15 rooms at a lodge near a choultry (chatra) in Bagalur for a two-day wedding function on March 15 and 16. One of the rooms was being used by the complainant himself. In the early hours of March 16, while the complainant was asleep, an unidentified miscreant allegedly broke open the room's door lock and stole a 35-gram black gold chain and three mobile phones belonging to the complainant's relatives.

Bagalur police traced and arrested the accused near Heggade Nagar Circle on March 22. Upon sustained interrogation, the accused confessed to the theft and revealed the location of the stolen goods. —BMB

House break-in case solved

The Bagalur Police has cracked two cases of house thefts with the arrest of two habitual offenders, leading to the recovery of gold ornaments and cash valued at ₹16.51 lakh.

The case began when a resident of Visvesvaraya Layout under the Bagalur police station limits returned home on December 7, 2024, after a day at work, only to find the front door lock broken and gold jewellery stolen from a cupboard. A formal complaint was lodged at Bagalur Police Station two days later.

Acting on information gathered, the police officials arrested two suspects near Ambedkar Hospital, KG Village, on March 20, 2025. Upon interrogation, the duo confessed to breaking into the house and stealing the valuables. They further admitted to being involved in another theft case at Bagalur village. —BMB

Police bust repeat offender

A habitual thief involved in multiple thefts across the city has been arrested, recovering gold ornaments weighing 90 grams worth ₹7.20 lakh. The case came to light after a complaint was filed on September 28, 2024, by a resident of Raghavendra Block under the Hanumantanagar police station limits. According to the complaint, the accused, posing as a customer, visited the complainant's jewellery shop and bought silver coins. Later, under the pretext of checking other ornaments, he stole a 15-gram gold chain packed in a plastic cover and fled. A theft case was registered immediately. Following up on the case, the Hanumantanagar police gathered information. On March 20, the accused was arrested near the Srinagar bus stand. During interrogation, he revealed his involvement in at least three theft cases in Sarjapur and Peenya. —BMB

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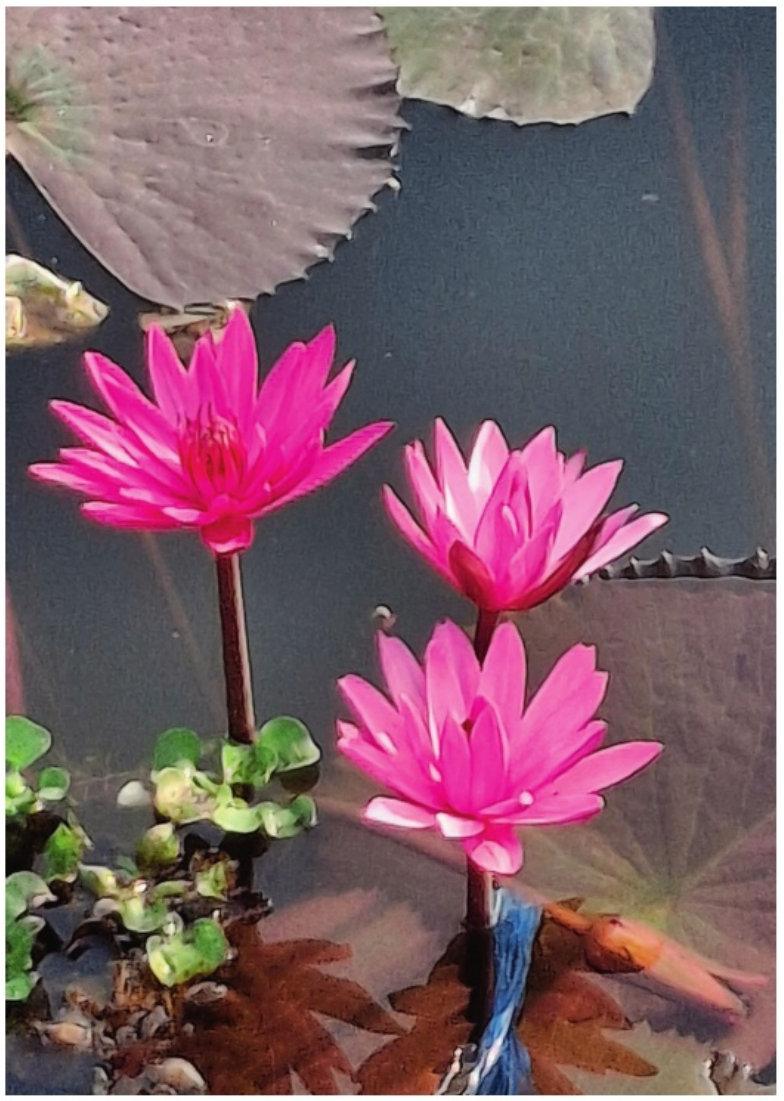
BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORY BEHIND THE PHOTO



BEAUTIFUL BLOOMS The picture captures flowers that embody pure nature, radiating beauty and simplicity. Harmonising effortlessly, the flowers showcase a celebration of natural grace and elegance. The picture was clicked by BM reader **Vijita Asher**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com**

DID YOU KNOW?

An ancient wasp may have zipped among the dinosaurs, with a body like a Venus flytrap to seize and snatch its prey, scientists reported on Wednesday. The parasitic wasp's abdomen boasts a set of flappy paddles lined with thin bristles, resembling "a small bear trap attached to the end of it," said study co-author Lars Vilhelmsen from the Natural History Museum of Denmark. Scientists uncovered over a dozen female wasps preserved in 99-million-year-old amber from the Kachin region in northern Myanmar. The wasp's flaps and teeth-like hairs resemble the structure of the carnivorous Venus flytrap plant, which snaps shut to digest unsuspecting insects. But the design of the wasp's getup made scientists think its trap was designed to cushion, not crush. Researchers suggested the flytrap-like structure was used to hold a wriggly insect still while the wasp laid an egg, depositing a baby wasp to feed on and drain its new host. It's a playbook adapted by many parasitic wasps, including modern-day cuckoo and bethylid wasps, to exploit insects. But no known wasp or any other insect does so with bizarre flaps quite like this one. — AP

GET HEARD WITH MIRROR

9591233247

Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

Spice Garden skywalk: Pedestrian aid or daily struggle?

Commuters say skywalks pose challenges like steep steps, uneven platforms, poor cleanliness, lack of security, ill lighting, and miscreants, making them unsafe, inconvenient, and inaccessible

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A skywalk near Spice Garden designed to ensure pedestrian safety is proving to be more of a challenge than a relief, especially for senior citizens and the differently-abled. Krishna Siddhartha, a 72-year-old resident of Marathahalli near Spice Garden, shared his daily struggle with the skywalk. He described climbing 120 steps for a round trip as exhausting, especially without a lift, making it particularly challenging for senior citizens like him. "The uneven platform requires careful navigation, and the skywalk is only swept once a week, making it unclean at times. Beggars often ask for alms, and some create discomfort for pedestrians. Despite being a necessary facility, using it feels more like an ordeal than a convenience," he said.

Many commuters echo these concerns. Radha Manjunath, a working professional from Whitefield, shared her frustration about skywalks, stating that while they are meant to make crossing safer, they are barely usable in their current condition. "Climbing so many steps with office bags is tiring, and the lack of security makes it unsafe, especially at night. Many prefer to cross the road directly, risking their lives," she noted.

Sharp edges a the skywalk near Spice Garden pose a real danger of causing injury to the pedestrians who are dependent on this facility

Adding to the woes, several skywalks across Bengaluru are ill-lit, making them unsafe at night. Rajesh Kumar, a tech employee from Bellandur, said that most skywalks are dimly lit and isolated after dark.

> **"Climbing so many steps is tiring and lack of security makes it unsafe** –Radha Manjunath, citizen

"I have seen chain-snatching incidents and even cases where miscreants harass pedestrians. If authorities want people to use skywalks, they must install better lighting and CCTV cameras," he stated.

Pedestrian advocacy groups have repeatedly urged the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and Bengaluru Traffic Police to install lifts and escalators to improve accessibility. "We are aware of the accessibility issues. Plans are in place to retrofit key skywalks with elevators, but budget constraints and vendor delays have slowed the process," said an official from BBMP, on the condition of anonymity.

BUST FAKE NEWS WITH BANGALORE MIRROR

Write to us at mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com

Can mustard oil, salt, and turmeric prevent all dental diseases?

Thip Media

Claim: An Instagram post states: "Sometimes put 2 drops of mustard oil in salt, turmeric and clean the teeth with your finger, no dental disease will exist."

Fact: Misleading. While the mixture may have some antibacterial properties, it cannot replace proper oral hygiene practices like brushing with fluoride toothpaste and using a toothbrush. The combination of mustard oil, salt, and turmeric has some properties that might help with basic oral hygiene, but it's not a complete solution. Mustard oil and turmeric both have antibacterial qualities. A 2024 study found that turmeric's active compound, curcumin, can reduce plaque and gum inflammation due to its antimicrobial effects. Mustard oil, often used in traditional practices, also has some antimicrobial properties. Salt can act as a mild abrasive to scrub away surface debris. However, cleaning teeth with your finger lacks the mechanical action of a toothbrush, which is crucial for removing plaque.

Toothpastes also contain fluoride, which strengthens enamel and prevents cavities, something this mixture cannot do. Relying solely on this method could leave plaque behind, increasing the risk of dental issues over time. We reached out to Dr Sanjeev Kumar, BDS, MPH, Senior Consultant (Medical), NPCCHH (MoHFW), Centre for Community Medicine, AIIMS, New Delhi, for his expert opinion on homemade paste for dental diseases. He clarifies, "Proper oral hygiene requires brushing twice a day with fluoride toothpaste, flossing daily to clean between teeth, and using a toothbrush to effectively remove plaque. These steps are essential for maintaining healthy teeth and gums and cannot be replaced by traditional mixtures like mustard oil, salt, and turmeric, which may only provide a temporary clean feeling without addressing deeper oral health needs." Likewise, some people suggest another home remedy claiming that turmeric, baking soda, and lemon can cure all dental issues in a day. However, this is false.

Can this mixture prevent dental diseases?

No, it cannot. The claim that "no dental disease will exist" is an overstatement. Dental diseases, such as cavities, gum disease, and tooth decay, are caused by multiple factors, including poor oral hygiene, high sugar intake, and lack of fluoride. While turmeric and mustard oil have antibacterial properties that might reduce some harmful bacteria in the mouth, they cannot address all causes of dental diseases. For example, cavities form when bacteria produce acids that erode enamel, a process that requires fluoride to counteract—something this mixture lacks. The National Health Service emphasizes that preventing dental diseases involves brushing twice daily with fluoride toothpaste, flossing, and regular dental check-ups.

Is this effective?

No, it is not. A toothbrush's bristles remove plaque and food particles from between teeth and along the gumline. On the other hand, a finger lacks this precision and scrubbing power. This can leave teeth at risk of decay and gum disease. Additionally, salt's abrasiveness can erode enamel—the protective layer of teeth—leading to sensitivity, while turmeric's yellow pigment may stain teeth over time. Mustard oil, not meant for oral use, might irritate gums or cause allergic reactions. We spoke with Dr Snigdha, BDS, MDS, from Vananchal Dental College and Hospital, Garhwa, Jharkhand, for her take on home remedies for dental health. She explains, "Cleaning teeth with a finger, even when using a mixture, is neither safe nor effective for maintaining oral health. A toothbrush is specifically designed with bristles that reach between teeth and along the gumline to remove plaque and food particles. Fingers lack the necessary precision, pressure, and scrubbing action, which can leave harmful bacteria behind.

The story was originally published by The Healthy Indian Project in (Scan QR Code) and republished by Bangalore Mirror as part of the Shakti Collective.

In his name

The KSLTA stadium was renamed after former Chief Minister, late SM Krishna, on Friday

PIC: KAUSHIK JN

967 fake doctors identified in 18 months

Karnataka's health crackdown shuts 228 illegal clinics, issues notices to 450 fake practitioners; health officials urge public vigilance as legal action intensifies

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In a sweeping crackdown on fraudulent medical practitioners, the Health Department has identified 967 fake doctors between September 2023 and January 2025. The initiative aims to uproot unqualified individuals posing as medical professionals and ensure public safety.

According to official data, district health and family welfare officers have issued notices to 450 fake doctors and shut down 228 clinics operating illegally. Additionally, 96 individuals have been fined, and over 70 legal cases have been filed in various district courts.

Among the districts, Bidar (213), Kolar (115), and Tumakuru (112) have reported the highest number of fake doctors. Authorities believe that border districts are particularly vulnerable as fake practitioners from neighbouring states easily infiltrate Karnataka and set up medical practices.

Bidar, Kolar, Tumakuru top fake doctor cases

Strict legal measures underway

A health department official said, "To tackle the growing threat of fraudulent medical practitioners, the KPME Act, 2007 (Section 21) grants taluk health officers the authority to inspect private medical establishments and take legal action against unqualified individuals. Under this law, strict penalties have been implemented to deter fake doctors. For a first-time offence, violators face a 25,000 fine. If caught a second time, the penalty increases significantly to 2.5 lakh along with one year of imprisonment. A third offence results in a 5 lakh fine and a three-year jail term, reinforcing the government's commitment to eliminating unlicensed medical practice."

Eradicating fake doctors

Despite the ongoing crackdown, only a few fake doctors have received jail sentences, and delays in legal proceedings have allowed many to continue practicing. Health officials stress that public vigilance is crucial—patients must verify a doctor's credentials before seeking treatment. Suspected fraudulent activities should be reported immediately. "The fight against fake doctors is ongoing, and public support is crucial. People must verify a doctor's background before seeking treatment," said Dr Vivek Dorai, Deputy Director, Karnataka Health Department.

India's air power gets ₹62k cr boost

The Cabinet Committee on Security on Friday gave its nod for the biggest ever deal to buy 156 Light Combat Helicopters worth over Rs 62,000 crore for the Indian Army and Air Force from Hindustan Aeronautics Limited.

This would be the biggest order for Hindustan Aeronautics Limited so far, and the choppers would be built at their plants in Bengaluru and Tumkur in Karnataka.

The 156 choppers would be divided between the Indian Army (90) and the Indian Air Force for operations along the China and Pakistan borders and would be a major step towards creating jobs and expanding the aerospace ecosystem within the country," defence sources told ANI.

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) received the tender for 156 Light Combat Helicopters (LCH) in June last year.

The IAF is the lead agency for this joint procurement, they said.

The LCH, which is also known as the Prachand, is the world's only attack helicopter that can land and take off at an altitude of 5,000 metres (16,400 ft), which makes it ideal to operate in the high-altitude areas of the Siachen glacier and Eastern Ladakh.

The Prachand is also capable of firing a range of air-to-ground and air-to-air missiles and can destroy the enemy's air defence operations.

The government has been emphasising the intention to go for self-reliance in defence manufacturing through Make in India as part of the Atma Nirbhar Bharat initiatives. The government has placed the biggest order for indigenous defence systems, including the 83 Light Combat Aircraft. The Cabinet Committee on Security recently cleared the deal for 307 ATAGS howitzers, and the deal for it is scheduled to be signed on Wednesday this week. The Rs 7,000 crore deal is divided between two companies, including Bharat Forge and the Tata group. **-ANI**

Elderly duped of ₹50L, die by suicide

An elderly couple in Khanapur taluk, Belagavi district, died by suicide after falling victim to cyber fraud and alleged harassment, police said on Friday.

Diogjeron Santan Nazareth (82) and his wife Flaviana (79), residents of Beedi village in Khanapur, had no children, police added.

A two-page handwritten death note left behind by Diogjeron stated their decision to end their lives and requested that no one be blamed, as they did not want to live at the mercy of anyone, police said.

The incident came to light on Thursday when neighbours found Flaviana lifeless on the bed, while Diogjeron's body was discovered in the underground water tank of their house, they added.

Diogjeron, a retired Maharashtra government secretariat employee, died by stabbing himself in the neck. Injuries were also found on his wrist, police said.

Flaviana is suspected to have consumed poison, though confirmation awaits the autopsy report, they added.

In the death note, Diogjeron named two individuals—Sumit Birra and Anil Yadav. He wrote that Birra, who claimed to be a telecom department official from New Delhi, informed him that a SIM card had been fraudulently purchased in his name and was being used for harassment and illegal advertisements. Birra later transferred the call to Yadav, who claimed to be from the Crime Branch.

Yadav demanded details of Diogjeron's property and finances, threatening legal consequences over the alleged SIM card misuse, according to the death note, police said.

Falling prey to the scam, Diogjeron transferred over Rs 50 lakh to them, but they continued to demand more, police added, citing digital transaction records.

He also mentioned taking a gold loan of Rs 7.15 lakh, with interest due on June 4.

"The amount should be paid, and the gold should be sold. The amount received after adjusting the principal and interest should be paid to the named persons," the note read.

Diogjeron further stated that he had borrowed money from friends and requested that the loans be repaid by selling his wife's gold bangles and earrings.

"Now I am 82 years old, and my wife is 79. We have no one to support us. We do not want to live at the mercy of anyone, so we have taken this decision," the note said.

Police have taken his mobile phone, the knife, and the suicide note into custody as part of the investigation. "Based on the death note and preliminary inquiry, we have registered a case of abetment to suicide and cyber fraud against the two accused named in the note. Further investigation is underway," said Belagavi Superintendent of Police Bhimashankar Guled. **-PTI**

Daylight murder of plants in heart of city

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Department has forgotten about the existence of this boulevard that was developed a few years ago. The dry plants highlights the negligence of BBMP authorities. If anyone throws a cigarette butt, fire tenders will have to rush to this place to douse the fire," said Nagaraj N, a pedestrian.

Coming down heavily on the authorities concerned for the pathetic condition of the boulevard, Sridhar Rao, a pedestrian, said that the BBMP Horticulture Department has failed in its duty of maintenance. "It seems the BBMP Horticulture Department has forgotten about this place after planting saplings on the vacant space between the compound wall and the footpath. The BBMP authorities issue statements on the maintenance of footpaths and boulevards but do nothing," Rao said.

Unclean sight

The condition of the decorative concrete name board near Mahatma Gandhi Park is a classic example of poor maintenance by the BBMP authorities. Some saplings were planted in the planter box under the name board. All the saplings are now withered as nobody bothered to water them and maintenance is of course not something the officials

PICS: KAUSHIK JN

"The BBMP health inspector must ensure this place is clean and neat. I have seen garbage accumulate at the bus shelter

know of. "The BBMP health inspector must ensure this place is clean and neat. I have seen garbage accumulate at the bus shelter. Many people walk on this footpath so the least the BBMP can do is to keep it clean," said Mohan Kumar, a pedestrian.

Arun Pai, Founder of Bangalore WALKS, regularly takes visitors on this footpath. "I feel that the name board and the planter box should be removed entirely as it blocks half the footpath at an area, which should be a safe refuge for pedestrians. This busy junction is the pride of Bengaluru, with high tourist footfalls, and deserves well-designed signage that facilitates pedestrian movement and presents MG Road and the city in a positive way," said Pai.

Meanwhile, BBMP Horticulture (East) Superintendent Vijay Kumar told BM that he would look into the matter. "I will make arrangements to water the saplings," he said. Talk about closing the stable doors once the horses have bolted.

LKG-UKG promise unkept

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

parents into financial distress. The government's plan to introduce free pre-primary education in Anganwadis was seen as a boon for thousands of families. However, with delays in funding and implementation, parents awaiting admissions are now left disappointed."

When contacted, an official of the Women and Child Development Department said, "Pre-primary education has already begun in a few Bengaluru Anganwadi centres, and it will be gradually extended to others once funds are released."

STATS SPEAKING

65,000
Total Anganwadi centres in Karnataka

17,000
Centres with basic infrastructure suitable for Montessori education

25
Number of children per centre for pre-primary education

Your Connect

real estate

BANGALORE PROPERTIES

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personal

CHANGE OF NAME

I, (PRAKASH BIDARE RAMAKRISHNA RAO) S/O (BIDARE RAMAKRISHNA RAO) born on (06/08/1960) R/o (Flat No 1103 Block- 1A Sobha Ruby Platinum Tumkur Road Nagasandra blore-73), have changed my name to (PRAKASH RAMAKRISHNA RAO) vide affidavit dated (21-03-2025) at (BENGALURU)

I, Sunil Kumar Sanjay Samahith S/o Chikmagalur Venkatasubbiah Sunil Kumar R/a 142, 6 Main, 1 Cross, Shank arnagar, Nandini Layout B'lore 560096. changed my name to Sanjay Samahith, vide affid avit dtd 26-03-2025 sworn before notary V. Rangaramu

I, Chikmaglur Sunil Kumar Sujay Sudhanva S/o Chikmagalur Venkatasubbiah Sunil Kumar R/a 142, 6 Main, 1 Cross, Shankarnagar, Nandini Layout B'lore-96. changed my name to Sujay Sudhanva, vide affidavit dtd 26-03-2025 sworn before notary V.Rangaramu

I Shakila Venugopal Shetty w/o Venugopal Shetty Residing at, No 1226,12th Floor, Tower-D,Brigade Golden Triangle, Virgonagar,Sannatammana - halli, Bengaluru Rural-560049 have changed my name to Shakila Shetty for all purposes.

I Rizwan S/o Wazeer Pasha R/o 8/1 9th MN RD Padarayanapura Bangalore, have changed my name to Rizwan Pasha. as per Aadhaar and Affidavit.

I, Afaan Khan S/o Abdulla Karim Khan R/o Sultanpur, Kadwad, Karwar, Uttara Kannada 581339 present camp at Bengaluru have changed my name to Afaan Abdulla Khan Affidavit Dt.28/03/2025 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Romal Pankaj Bhulani, R/o 13023, Sobha Elite, Opp Nagasandra Metro Station, Tumkur Road, Bengaluru 560073 have changed my name to Romal Bhulani Affidavit Dt.28/03/2025 Notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Shachi Joshi W/o Akhil Lakshmi Narayan R/at 137, 4 Cross, 5 Block, Bhuvaneshwari nagar, BSK 3 Stg, B'lore 560085. changed my name to Shachi Pramod Kumar Joshi, vide affidavit dtd 25-03-25 sworn before notary V. Rangaramu

I, Shilpa Darshan Singh D/o Ganesh Madhegowda, Residing at, No 60,1st main Road,1st Block,R T Nagar, Bengaluru 560032.have changed my name to Shilpa Madhegowda Ganesh for all purposes.

I, Kiran Mutha W/o Mahaveer Jain P R/o #23 Flat No-303 Chhogajis Enclave V v puram B'lore-560004 have changed my name to Kiran Jain.

I Bhavesh Kumar Prakash Chand S/O, Prakash Chand Chaganlal R/o No.364/27,7th Cross Wilson Garden, Bengaluru Pin - 560027, have changed my name to Bhavesh Kumar.

I Indra Bai W/O, Prakash Chand R/o Nno.364/27,7th Cross Wilson Garden, Bengaluru Pin - 560027, Karnataka, India have changed my name to Prakashchand Indra Bai.

I, Balaprakash.g R/o No 5 10th Main Bandappa Garden Muthalaya Nagar Behind Jp Park Mathikere Bangalore 560054 have changed my minor son's name from Jharins Sameul .b to Jharins Samuel .b.

I Shrivastav Ruchita Subhash W/O, Sudhanshu Hanumant Sangam R/o C-129,akshaya Regalia Uttarahalli Main Road, Bengaluru - 560098 have changed my name to Ruchita Shrivastav.

I Astha Vaishnav W/O, Yogesh Parashar R/o H-27 203, Sandeep Vihar, Kannamangala, Whitefield, Bengaluru 560067 have changed my name to Astha Parashar

I, Sudeep D S R/O #143, Doddajala Village and post, Yelahanka Taluk,Bangalore-562157 have changed my minor daughter name from Lisha S to Lisha Siri S

LOST & FOUND

I, Smt. Jabeen Taj, Residing near Himalaya fast food, Achith nagara, Soladevanhalli, Chikkabanavra Bangalore. I have lost my Original sale deed document bearing no 2126/2003-04 and 2123/2003-04 at Soladevanahalli bus stop on 14-03-2025. If anybody found please hand over to the nearest police station or above mentioned address or contact 9482513176

ದಾಖಲೆ ಕಳೆದಿದೆ

ಶ್ರೀಮತಿ **ಕೆ ಎನ್ ಪದ್ಮಾವತಿ** ಕೋಂ ವೈ.ಎನ್.ರಾಮಚಂದ್ರಮೂರ್ತಿ, ಸುಮಾರು 60 ವರ್ಷ, ವಾಸ: ನಂ.411, ಹೆಚ್‌ಆರ್‌ಬಿಆರ್ ಕಾಸ್ಮೋ ಪಾಲ್ಟನ್ ಕ್ಲಬ್ ಹತ್ತಿರ, 7ನೇ ಅಡ್ಡ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಉತ್ತರ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು-560043.

ನಾನು ಈ ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ವಿಳಾಸದಲ್ಲಿ ಖಾಯಂ ವಾಸಿಯಾಗಿದ್ದು, ದಿನಾಂಕ: 26/03/2025 ರಂದು ಶಿಡ್ಲಘಟ್ಟ ಬಸ್ ನಿಲ್ದಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಯಾಣ ಮಾಡಲು ಬಸ್ಸಿಗೆ ಕಾಯುತ್ತಿರುವಾಗ, ನನ್ನ ಬ್ಯಾಗಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಇದ್ದ ಜಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಶಿಡ್ಲಘಟ್ಟ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಕಸಬಾ ಹೋಬಳಿ, ಹಂಡಿಗನಾಳ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಜಮೀನಿನ ಕ್ರಯ ಪತ್ರಗಳು ಕಳೆದು ಹೋಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಕಳೆದು ಹೋದ ಕ್ರಯ ಪತ್ರದ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ ಇಂತಿವೆ: 1)849/2010-11 ದಿ:07/07/2010, 2)1058/2007-08 ದಿ:13/017/2007, 3)1442/1980-81 ದಿ:03/11/1980, 4)1075/1980-81 ದಿ:30/08/1980, 5)3015/2011-12 ದಿ: 01/12/2011, 6)1058/2012-13 ದಿ:07/07/2012, 7)2283/2013-14 ದಿ:13/09/2013, 8)2890/2017-18 ದಿ:30/08/2017, 9) 4392/2014-15 ದಿ:06/11/2014, 10) 1515/2013-14 ದಿ:12/07/2013 ಹಾಗೂ 11) 1253/2003-04 ದಿ: 25/10/2003 ಸದರಿ ಕ್ರಯ ಪತ್ರಗಳು ಕಳೆದುಹೋಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಇ ಲಾಸ್ಟ್ ದೂರಿನ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 1540963/2025. ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳು ಯಾರಿಗಾದರೂ ಸಿಕ್ಕಲ್ಲಿ ಮೇಲಿನ ವಿಳಾಸಕ್ಕೆ ನೀಡಲು ಮನವಿ.

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CHAR DHAM 19 DAYS
MAY: 12, 30 JUN: 1, 5, 7, 13, 17, 24 JUL: 1

KASHMIR WITH TULIP GARDEN/LADAKH* 6/12* DAYS
APR: 15, 18, 20 JUN: 5*, 14*

AMRITSAR VAISHNODEVI SRINAGAR 16 DAYS
APR: 6, 8, 11, 18, 23, 30 MAY: 6, 12, 18, 24, 30

KASHI AYODHYA GAYA/HARIDWAR* 11/16* DAYS
APR: 13*, 14, 20* 20, 27* MAY: 3, 9, 11*, 15, 23, 24* JUN: 1*, 2, 8, 8* 19

KASHI AYODHYA/BADRI KEDAR* 14*/21 DAYS
APRIL: 22, 27, 29* MAY: 3, 9, 10*, 15, 16*, 21, 22*, 28* JUN: 2, 8, 9*

SHIMLA MANALI/MUSSOORIE NAINITAL* 15/14* DAYS
APR: 2, 14*, 30

Centre approves package 3 of Mysuru-Kushalnagar Highway

The long-awaited Srirangapatna-Kushalnagar Highway Package 3 has received approval from the Centre, paving the way for smoother travel on the Bengaluru-Mysuru-Madikeri Road. Announcing the development, Mysuru MP Yaduveer Wadiyar said, "This crucial project has finally been approved for construction, marking a significant milestone for our region after years of delays. The highway will enhance connectivity, ease travel, and drive economic and overall development in Mysuru and Kodagu."

With the Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway now operational, focus has shifted to the Bengaluru-Kodagu Highway, which will feature a Greenfield alignment to bypass Mysuru and nearby towns. Once completed, the project is expected to cut travel time between Bengaluru and Kushalnagar from five hours to just 2.5 hours. According to National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) officials, the new road will start from Guddehosur near Srirangapatna (Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway) and extend 51.43 km with a combined bypass at Hunsur, joining the existing Mysuru-Kushalnagar Road at Thammadahalli. The project also includes bypasses for Periyapatna (19.95 km), Kushalnagar (12.2 km), and Suntikoppa (3.4 km), ensuring smoother traffic flow.

The NHAI has confirmed that final approval has been granted, and construction is set to begin by the second week of April. Officials also highlighted that the new alignment passes mostly through agricultural and dry lands, minimising social and environmental impact.

Welcoming the move, Rajappa, a realtor said, "With the new Greenfield alignment bypassing congested towns, demand for residential, commercial, and industrial spaces along the corridor is expected to rise. Improved infrastructure will attract real estate developers, hospitality ventures, and retail businesses, leading to increased land values and new investment opportunities. The reduced travel time to Kodagu's tourism hotspots will further drive demand for second homes, resorts, and gated communities, making Mysore Road a preferred destination for both homebuyers and investors." **–Prakash VL**

BM Property
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Mahesh Malagi
9886721857

Ugadi brings festive deals for property investment

Festivals in India are more than just celebrations; they symbolise prosperity, new beginnings, and good fortune. Ugadi, the traditional New Year celebrated in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana, is one such occasion when people embrace new ventures, including buying a home. Real estate developers recognise this auspicious sentiment and roll out attractive offers, making Ugadi one of the best times to invest in property.

Why Ugadi is the Ideal time for homebuyers?

Festive discounts & offers

Realtors understand that homebuyers prefer making big decisions during auspicious times. To encourage sales, developers announce special discounts, flexible payment plans, and freebies like modular kitchens, gold coins, and free car parking. "Festivals are a time of joy and prosperity, and we want to pass on the same sentiment to homebuyers," says a leading real estate developer. "This Ugadi, we are offering up to ₹5 lakh discount on selected properties, ensuring that buyers get the best deal."

Low-interest home loans

Banks and financial institutions also join the festive spirit by offering lower interest rates and processing fee waivers on home loans. This makes property investment more affordable. "We have seen a 20% increase in home loan applications during Ugadi," shares a bank official. "With reduced EMIs and flexible loan tenures, buyers find it easier to finance their dream home."

Auspicious beginnings

In Indian tradition, Ugadi marks the start of a new chapter. Many believe that purchasing a home during this time brings success and prosperity. Vastu experts often suggest property registration or booking during festivals to ensure good fortune. "Buying a home on an auspicious day like Ugadi sets the tone for happiness and financial stability," says a renowned astrologer. "It's a time when positive energies align to bless new investments."

High ROI and smart investment

For investors, festival-time deals provide an excellent opportunity to secure prime properties at discounted rates. With urban expansion and infrastructural developments in key areas, properties bought now promise significant appreciation in the coming years. "Ugadi offers aren't just about discounts; they are a chance to make smart investments," says a property consultant. "The demand for housing is increasing, and those who invest now will reap higher returns in the future."

Special perks for first-time buyers

Real estate developers often introduce exclusive deals for first-time homebuyers, such as lower booking amounts or EMI holidays. These benefits ease the financial burden and make homeownership more accessible. "As a first-time buyer, I was hesitant about the financial commitment, but the festive offers made it easier for me," shares a happy homeowner. "I saved ₹3 lakh on my dream apartment, and the developer even offered a free home automation package!" So, as the Ugadi bells ring in a new year, why not step into your dream home? After all, festive time is the best time to buy property! **–BMB**

HEALTH TIP: Milk too helps in increasing the antioxidant levels in the body

Turmeric has an active component called curcumin which is rich in antioxidants

LONG LIVE THE VOLUNTEERS

Want to stay healthier and fulfilled later in life? Try volunteering

As gerontologists – social scientists who study aging populations – we envision a future in which older people leave a doctor's visit with a prescription to go volunteer for something.

Does that sound far-fetched? There's scientific research backing it up.

Good for your health

While spending more than a dozen years researching what happens when older adults volunteer with nonprofits, including churches, we've found that volunteers consider themselves to be in better health than their peers who don't. In addition, their blood pressure is lower, and they appear to be aging more slowly than other people of the same age.

Other researchers have found that volunteering is associated with a lower risk of having a heart attack.

The mental health benefits are just as striking.

Volunteering is tied to having fewer symptoms of depression and being more satisfied with your life. It often brings an instant boost in mood – along with a deeper sense of meaning and purpose.

Even engaging in what's known as "informal helping" – lending a hand to friends, neighbors or community members in need, without getting paid or participating in an organized program – can help you in similar ways.

There are also health benefits for those who start volunteering much earlier in life.

Children and teens who volunteer tend to have better health and lower levels of anxiety and fewer behavioral problems than those who don't volunteer.

Changing demographics

The number of U.S. adults at least 62 years old – the earliest age at which you can claim Social Security retirement benefits – has grown by nearly 35 million since 2000, while the number of children and teens under 18 has fallen by nearly 1.5 million. There are now about 76 million Americans over 62 and 71 million under 18.

This change has been gradual. Following a long-term demographic shift, record numbers of Americans are reaching retirement age.

Benefits for society and the economy

The benefits of volunteering aren't just for the volunteers themselves.

The total value of the hours of unpaid work volunteers put in totals an estimated US$170 billion each year, according to AmeriCorps, the federal agency focused on national and community service.

And participating in community service programs can lead to better job prospects for volunteers, that same agency has found.

AmeriCorps Seniors, which focuses on engaging volunteers ages 55 and older, runs programs that offer major benefits to their communities. These include the Foster Grandparent program, which connects older adult mentors to children, and the Senior Companion program, which connects volunteers to older adults seeking some help to continue living independently in their own homes.

A current AmeriCorps Seniors pilot program is helping adults 55 and up, who can have more trouble landing new jobs than younger people, gain new job skills through their community service.

People of all ages can get together through volunteering. Some organizations intentionally encourage this kind of intergenerational cooperation, including CoGenerate and Generations United.

Rebuilding communities

Researchers have also found that volunteering may increase trust within a community, especially when it brings together people from different backgrounds.

It can strengthen "social cohesion," a term researchers use to describe how much people bond and help each other, and reduce prejudice.

Volunteers' views on social issues may change through their work, too: More than 4 in 5 adults over 55 who tutored public school students to strengthen their reading skills in the national Experience Corps program, for example, stated that their views on public education evolved as a result. Those volunteers expressed more support for public education and said they'd be more likely to vote in favor of spending on schools.

An American pastime

Our findings are backed by science, but they also have roots in American history.

Alexis de Tocqueville – a French philosopher and diplomat who arrived in the United States in 1831 to study the new nation's penal system – was so impressed by the scale of volunteering in the U.S. that he wrote about it in his 1835 book "Democracy in America."

Tocqueville observed that "Americans of all ages, all conditions, all minds" were likely to unite in many kinds of groups or associations.

More recently, former U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy has said that volunteering can strengthen communities, and that "community is a powerful source of life satisfaction and life expectancy."

If you aren't volunteering today, here are a few ideas to help you begin.

Start small. Try joining an organization or association in your community, taking part in neighborhood cleanups or volunteering at your local senior center, animal shelter or museum. Love gardening? You can take care of local parks, conservation areas, community gardens and more.

Once you're ready for a bigger commitment, consider becoming a mentor through programs such as OASIS Intergenerational Tutoring or Big Brothers Big Sisters.

And consider a more extensive level of commitment to organizations or causes you care deeply about. This might include joining a nonprofit board of directors, volunteering more hours, or taking on a volunteer leadership role.

At a time when trust is eroding and divisions seem insurmountable, volunteering offers something rare: an evidence-backed way to reconnect with communities, institutions and each other.

Reach out to your favorite nonprofit, visit Volunteer.gov or VolunteerMatch.org, or connect with a nonprofit resource center, a regional United Way or a community foundation to find volunteer opportunities near you.

(Cal J Halvorsen, Washington University in St. Louis and Seoyoun Kim, University of Michigan, The Conversation)

All you need to know about...

High BP

Impact on kidney function
Hypertension or high blood pressure can have a significant impact on kidney function, much before clinical symptoms begin to appear, according to a study that stressed the importance of early detection.

Abnormalities
The research, led by a team from the Medical University of Vienna in Austria, found that high blood pressure can lead to abnormalities in the podocytes -- specialised cells in the renal filter -- even without other pre-existing conditions such as diabetes.

Early detection helps
"Early detection and treatment could help to slow the progression of kidney disease and prevent long-term damage," said the researchers Rainer Oberbauer and Heinz Regele from the varsity.

Study
For the study, published in the journal "Hypertension", the team analysed kidney tissue from a total of 99 patients: who either suffered from high blood pressure (arterial hypertension) and type 2 diabetes or did not have either of the two conditions. High BP and diabetes are the most common causes of chronic kidney disease. The study was conducted on unaffected renal tissue samples from tumour nephrectomies -- a surgical procedure in which a kidney is removed in whole or in part to treat a kidney tumour.

What are poodcytes
Podocytes are specialised cells of the renal corpuscles (glomeruli) that play a crucial role in the filtering function of the kidney. Their size and density are important indicators of the health of the kidney tissue.

What results show
"The results show that patients with hypertension have a reduced density of podocytes compared to healthy controls and that their cell nuclei are enlarged compared to those of healthy controls," said first author Christopher Paschen. —IANS

Scenes from RCB vs CSK

Royal Challengers Bengaluru's Virat Kohli plays a shot during the Indian Premier League 2025 match between Chennai Super Kings and Royal Challengers Bengaluru at MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai on Friday

RCB captain Rajat Patidar celebrates after scoring a half-century

Captain top-scorer for RCB

Royal Challengers Bengaluru scored 196 for 7 in their Indian Premier League match against Chennai Super Kings in Chennai on Friday.

Invited to bat, RCB captain Rajat Patidar top-scored with 51 off 32 deliveries while openers Phil Salt (32 off 16 balls), Virat Kohli (31 off 30 balls) and Tim David (22 not out off 8 balls) were the other notable contributors.

For CSK, Noor Ahmad (3/36) was the pick of the bowlers while Matheesha Pathirana (2/36), veteran Ravichandran Ashwin (1/22) and pacer Khaleel Ahmed (1/28) chipped in with wickets.

Powerful earthquake rocks Myanmar, Thailand

More than 150 dead in 7.7 magnitude quake, buildings, bridge, dam destroyed

Aftermath of the quake in Bangkok, Thailand, on Friday

A powerful earthquake rocked Myanmar and neighboring Thailand on Friday, destroying buildings, a bridge and a dam. At least 144 people were killed in Myanmar, where photos and video from two hard-hit cities showed extensive damage. At least eight died in the Thai capital, where a high-rise under construction collapsed.

The 7.7 magnitude quake, with an epicenter near Mandalay, Myanmar 's second largest city, struck at midday and was followed by a strong 6.4 magnitude aftershock.

The full extent of death, injury and destruction was not immediately clear — particularly in Myanmar, one of the world's poorest countries. It is embroiled in a civil war and information is tightly controlled.

The head of Myanmar's military government said in the televised speech on Friday evening that at least 144 people were killed and 730 others were injured.

"The death toll and injuries are expected to rise," Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing said. Photos from the capital of Naypyidaw showed multiple buildings used to house civil servants destroyed by the quake, and rescue crews pulling victims from the rubble.

Myanmar's government said blood was in high demand in the hardest-hit areas. Images of buckled and cracked roads in Mandalay and damaged highways as well as the collapse of a bridge and dam raised further concerns about how rescuers would even reach some areas in a country already enduring a widespread humanitarian crisis.

IN FOCUS

Near Bangkok's popular Chatuchak market, a 33-story building under construction, with a crane on top, crumpled into a cloud of dust, and onlookers could be seen screaming and running in a video posted on social media.

The sound of sirens echoed throughout central Bangkok and vehicles filled the streets, leaving some of the city's already congested streets gridlocked. The elevated rapid transit system and subway shut down.

While the area where the quake struck is prone to earthquakes, they are usually not so big and it is rare for them to be felt in the Thai capital, which sits on a river delta and is at moderate risk for quakes.

In Bangkok, at least three people were killed in the building collapse and 90 were missing, according to Defense Minister Phumtham Wechayachai. He offered no more details about the ongoing rescue efforts but first responders said that seven people had been rescued so far from the area. At least two of the dead were construction workers who were killed by falling rubble or debris, rescue worker Songwut Wangpon told reporters. **-AP**

IN THE COURT

X's claims misleading: Centre defends takedown notices

The Centre defended takedown notices under Section 79(3)(b) of the IT Act against X's challenge, asserting that this mechanism supports rather than undermines the Section 69A blocking process. The government stated that X's attempt to merge these processes aims to avoid intermediary responsibilities whilst maintaining liability protection for third-party content. The Centre referenced the Supreme Court's recent Ranveer Allahabadia case to highlight the court's acknowledgement of social media's unlawful content issues and intermediaries' responsibility for due diligence.

In its objections filed at the High Court, the Centre requested dismissal of X's petition with exemplary costs. Justice M Nagaprasanna conducted a brief hearing with Solicitor General Tushar Mehta and Senior Advocate KG Raghavan representing the respective parties, adjourning until April 3. The Centre clarified that Section 79's protection is not a constitutional right but conditional upon intermediary obligations. It differentiated between Section 69A and Section 79(3)(b). The former issues orders with penalties, whilst the latter provides notices that only affect statutory protection if disregarded. The government explained that Section 79(3)(b) works alongside Rule 3(1)(d) of IT Rules 2021, allowing both central and state governments to issue notices, whereas only the Centre can issue Section 69A orders. The Centre dismissed X's interpretation as misleading, designed to retain protection whilst avoiding responsibilities. It rejected X's argument that Section 79(3)(b) created an alternative blocking process. **BMB**

Madras HC grants Kamra interim anticipatory bail

Madras High Court on Friday granted interim anticipatory bail to standup comedian Kunal Kamra in connection with multiple FIRs lodged against him over his alleged controversial remarks about Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde.

Justice Sunder Mohan ordered interim anticipatory bail until April 7 with conditions. Kunal Kamra approached the Madras High Court to seek transit anticipatory bail, claiming he has been receiving many threats following his recent satirical comments.

Earlier on Thursday, Kunal Kamra lambasted the mainstream media, accusing it of serving as a mouthpiece for the ruling party.

Kamra labeled the media as "vultures" and expressed his disdain for the media's role in perpetuating misinformation and distracting from pressing issues.

"To all those hounding for a quote - "The mainstream media at this point is nothing but a miscommunication arm of the ruling party. They are vultures who report on issues that don't matter to the people of this country. If they all shut shop from tomorrow till eternity, they will be doing a favour to the country, its people, and their own children," Kamra posted on X.

Mumbai police issued him a second summons, rejecting his request for a week's time to appear for questioning.Kamra failed to appear on the first date, and his lawyer had requested seven days. However, after he did not appear, the Mumbai Police issued another date after taking legal opinion. **-IANS**

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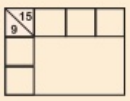
@BangaloreMirror

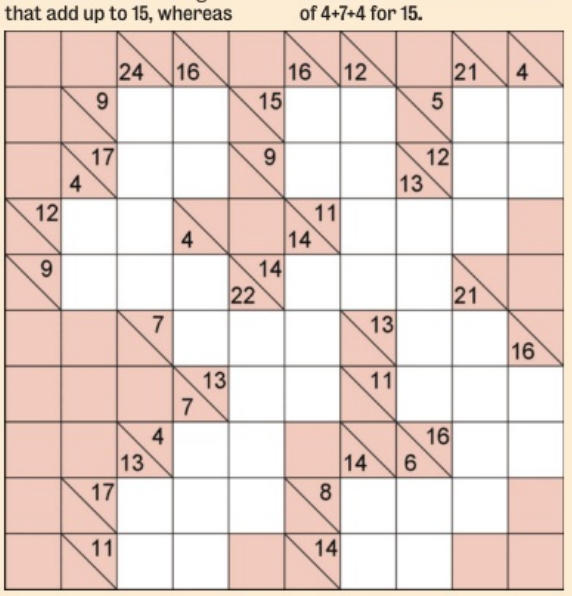
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

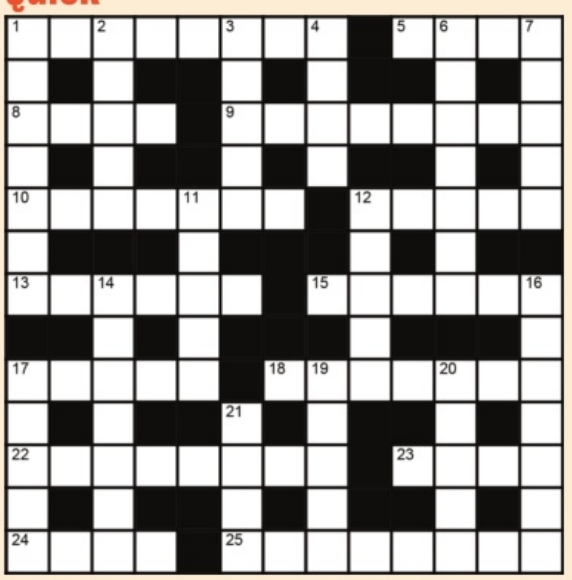


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Hard at work (2,3,3)
5 Sacred image (4)
8 Crooked (4)
9 Assassin (8)
10 Anarchic (7)
12 Stupid people (5)
13 Artist's workshop (6)
15 Night visions (6)
17 Adulates or adores (5)
18 Rules of syntax (7)
22 Protective devices worn in warfare (8)
23 Mother of Zeus (4)
24 ___ a call: visited? (4)
25 Absolutely certain (8)

DOWN

1 Prophets or seers (7)
2 Fling (5)
3 Ian Flemming's ___ Bond (5)
4 Flying creature (4)
6 Flower petals, collectively (7)
7 Standards (5)
11 Prepares for publication (5)
12 Hindu goddess of war (5)
14 Theatre on Lalbagh Cross Road (7)
16 Turn up (7)
17 Help in mounting (3-2)
19 Corrodes or oxidises? (5)
20 Great Muslim leader (5)
21 The game __ __ : you are exposed (2,2)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: V EQUALS Y

WR VAO KLSS KGL KCOKG, VAO MAI'K GDPL KA CLJLJFLC DIVKGWIE.

Linemaro

Rubbing her back: I thought angels had wings

Mindchow

Either write something worth reading or do something worth writing

Joke of the day

Why can't your nose be 12 inches long? Because then it would be a foot!

Loop

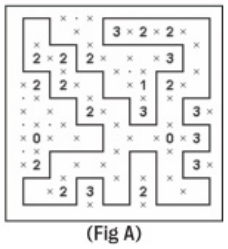
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

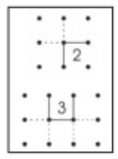
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

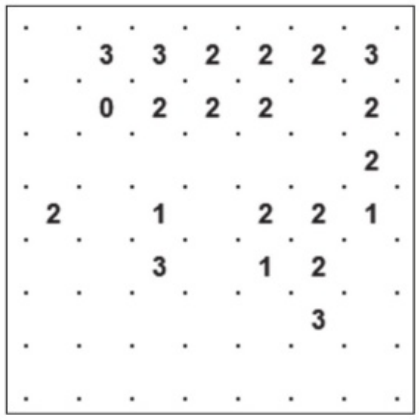
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



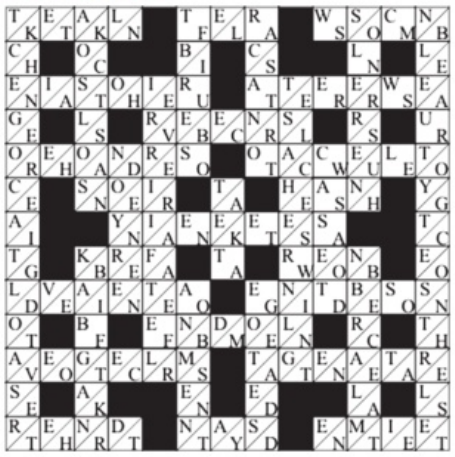
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



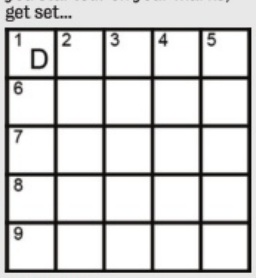
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Fat Dr; 6 Urger;
7 Open I; 8 Go Loy;
9 Sly is

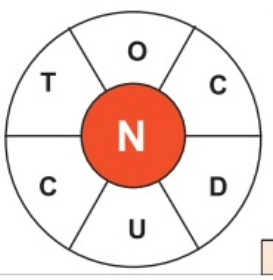
DOWN

1 Or old; 2 Plyer;
3 Goa is; 4 Fug in;
5 St rye

Mensapuzzle

What is missing from the last segment?

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

02 Average; 03 Good; 04 Outstanding

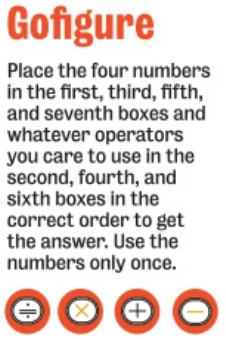
SudokuChallenge

				5				1
7		6	2				5	
9	4		7				3	
		4		9	7			
		2		4		6		
			5	3		1		
	3				6		7	9
	6				9	3		5
2				7				

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Easy = 24
4 5 7 8

Medium = 7
1 4 5 7

Hard = 30
2 4 5 8

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

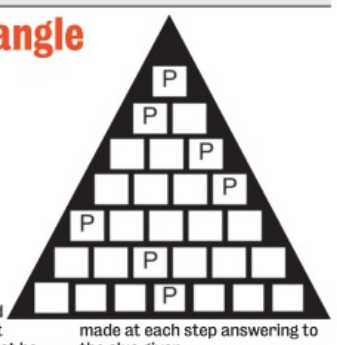
Differences: 1. Hand is moved. 2. Tag is moved. 3. Picture frame is higher. 4. Windowsill is added. 5. Drawer is added. 6. Bow is larger.

Riddler

A man escapes from jail with help from his girlfriend. Four girls are accused of being the man's girlfriend. His girlfriend is lying. Two girls are innocent and telling the truth. The other girl is the man's sister who is helping the girlfriend lie. Who is the man's sister? Amanda: "Melinda is his girlfriend." Vanessa: "Eva is lying." Eva: "Amanda is lying." Melinda: "Vanessa is not his sister."

Alpha triangle

1 16th letter
2 A constant
3 Brief swim
4 Fall in globules
5 A deadly sin
6 Torn
7 Held firmly

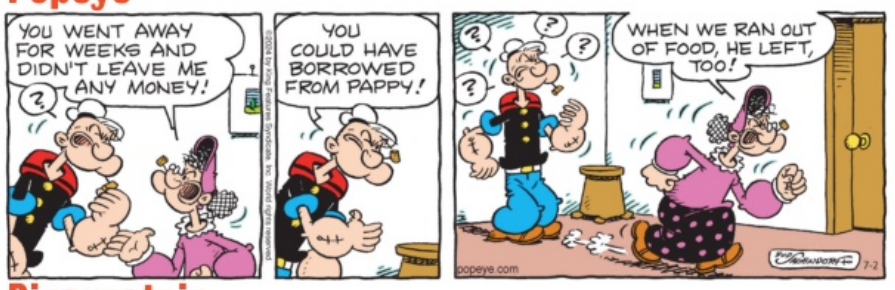


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Popeye


YOU WENT AWAY FOR WEEKS AND DIDN'T LEAVE ME ANY MONEY!
YOU COULD HAVE BORROWED FROM PAPPY!
WHEN WE RAN OUT OF FOOD, HE LEFT, TOO!
popeye.com

Bizarrotrip

©2024 BIZARRO STUDIOS
BIZARRO.COM
Wayno & Piraro 12-23-24
I knew I'd screw up if I got promoted to Assembly.
ELF-FULFILLING PROPHECY
Dist. by King Features

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

MOM, LOOK! THE ROBBER IS BACK!!
HE'S TRYING TO GET IN! MOM, YOU HAVE TO DO SOMETHING!
HURRY! HE'S GONNA GET AWAY!
KNOCK KNOCK
HEART OF THE CITY © 2024 ANDREWS MCMEEL
GOCOMICS.COM/HEARTOFTHECITY

Crankshaft

Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
The day may start with nervousness and dissatisfaction, but by afternoon, confidence and happiness will return. Avoid carelessness in financial, professional, and academic decisions. Small ego clashes with your spouse may arise, so patience is key to maintaining harmony. Lovebirds might plan a short trip together.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Overspending could impact your savings, so be mindful of your finances. Express yourself carefully at work and home. Avoid lending money and postpone major financial decisions, especially in real estate or asset investments. Staying responsible and committed to your duties will prevent complications.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
A social gathering may help you reconnect with important contacts, benefiting your future. Those in glamour, art, or fashion may plan innovative career moves. Students will excel academically, while lovebirds will enjoy a joyful and romantic day.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
A busy work schedule may feel exhausting, but it will bring satisfaction. Financially, you will manage expenses wisely. A polite and affectionate approach will strengthen family bonds. Good news from a relative may brighten your day.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Blessings from elders will boost your confidence, and trusting your intuition will help in financial matters. A family visit to a religious place is likely. However, controlling arrogance is crucial to maintaining peace at home. Students may receive positive academic results through luck.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
The morning will be pleasant, and work will bring joy, but a negative mood may set in as the day progresses. Avoid lending money, as recovery may be difficult. Self-reflection will help you identify areas for growth. You may develop an interest in occult sciences.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Blessed by the moon, you will start the day in a cheerful and romantic mood, fostering harmony in your personal life. Patience in professional matters will lead to successful collaborations with colleagues and business partners.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Controlling unnecessary expenses will improve financial stability. However, be cautious about your children's health. Singles may see unexpected progress in their marriage prospects. Those in travel, diplomacy, or supply chain businesses will perform well. Pay attention to digestive health.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Professional plans may not unfold as expected, leading to frustration. Avoid major investment or relationship decisions today. Couples and lovebirds should steer clear of unnecessary arguments to maintain peace. Students should focus on disciplined learning rather than shortcuts.

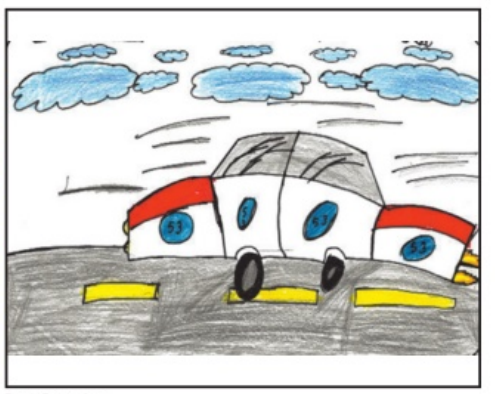
Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
The moon's influence may make you more sensitive and emotional. Avoid real estate or asset investments today. Your parents' health may require extra attention. Delays at work may test your patience, so staying composed will help. In your professional life, decisiveness is crucial.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
A positive day awaits, bringing financial stability as you balance earnings and expenditures. Your network will support your plans, and siblings or subordinates will be particularly helpful. A visit to elders or a religious place may bring peace of mind.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
High energy levels will keep you optimistic and motivated. Hard work will lead to goal achievement. An outing with friends or family will add to your happiness. Students may receive good news regarding their studies.

KIDZONE

Mehak, Bengaluru



Ravi, Bengaluru

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

RIDDLER
Amanda

SOLVE IN 1M
2(4)+1 = 8+1 = 9

BULL'S EYE
CONDUCT, count, undo, unto

FAST FIVE

D	R	A	F	T
R	E	G	U	R
O	P	I	N	E
O	L	O	G	Y
L	Y	S	I	S

STRIKE OUT

R	E	N	D		T	A	S		E	M	I	T		
E		A		E	D		L		S					
V	O	T	E	R	S		A	G	N	A	T	E		
O		F		E	N	D	O	N		C		T		
L	E	A	N	T	O		G	I	D	E	O	N		
T		K	E	F		A		W	E	B		O		
A		Y	A	N	K	E	E	S				C		
E		N	O	R		A		H	A	N		Y		
R	H	O	D	E	S		O	C	C	U	L	T		
A		S		V	E	E	R	S		R		U		
E	I	T	H	E	R		T	E	R	E	S	A		
H		C		I		S		N		E				
T	E	A	L		T	E	A		W	O	M	B		

QUICK

O	N	T	H	E	J	O	B		I	C	O	N		
R		H		A		I		O		E				
U		H		U		T		D		C				
G	A	S	M	A	S	K	S		R	H	E	A		
L	O	V	E	S		G	R	A	M	M	A	R		
S	T	U	D	I	O		D	R	E	A	M	S		
		R		T		G						U		
		E		D		U		L						
L	A	W	L	E	S	S		D	O	L	L	S		
C		O		E		D		O		R		M		
A	W	R	Y		M	U	R	D	E	R	E	R		
R		H		A		I		O		E				
O	N	T	H	E	J	O	B		I	C	O	N		
P	A	I	D		P	O	S	I	T	I	V	E		

MENSA PUZZLE
196. Starting with the top left segment, and moving clockwise around the circle, numbers follow the sequence of square numbers, from 121 to 256.

QUOTE UNCODE
If you tell the truth, you don't have to remember anything.

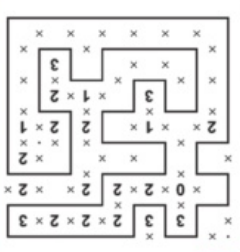
SUDOKU

2	9	1	3	7	5	4	8	6
4	6	7	8	2	9	3	1	5
5	3	8	4	1	6	2	7	9
6	7	9	5	3	2	1	4	8
3	5	2	1	4	8	6	9	7
1	8	4	6	9	7	5	2	3
9	4	5	7	6	1	8	3	2
7	1	6	2	8	3	9	5	4
8	2	3	9	5	4	7	6	1

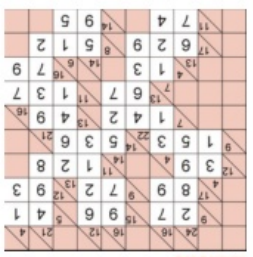
GO FIGURE
Easy
4 + 7 + 5 + 8 = 24
Medium
4 – 5 + 7 + 1 = 7
Hard
4 x 5 + 8 + 2 = 30

ALPHA TRIANGLE
P, Pi, Dip, Drip, Pride, Ripped, Gripped.

LOOP

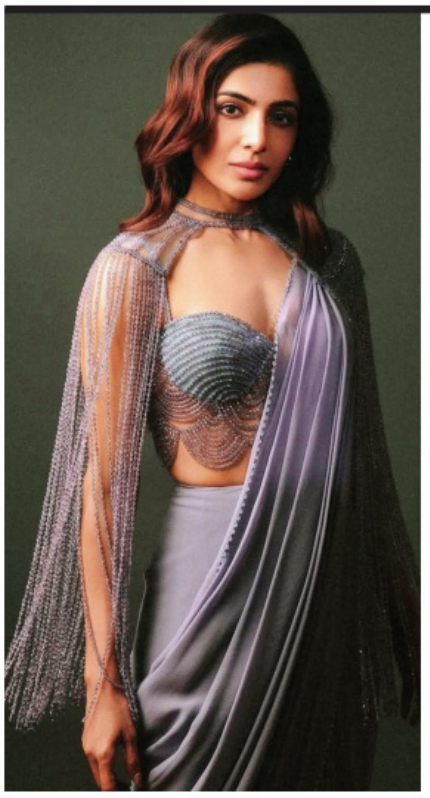


KAKURO



Volume No 18, Issue No 013 RNI NO:KARENG/2007/22411 Published for the Proprietors, Metropolitan Media Company Ltd by R.J. Prakashan at No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011 and printed by him at Bennett Coleman & Co Ltd., The Times of India Press, No. 9/10/11-A, 4th Main, KIADB Bommasandra Industrial Area, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore – 560 099 (Phones : Press : 080-22899999; Editorial : 080-40877666, Fax – 40877545, Registered Office: No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru – 560 011, Email : mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com Editor : Ms. Seena Menon – responsible for selection of news under PRB Act. © Reproduction in whole or in part without the written permission of the Publisher is prohibited.

 # Fan frenzy
Actor Chiyaan Vikram, who was mobbed by fans after the release of 'Veera Dheera Sooran', had to leave his car at the theatre and get out of the venue in an auto rickshaw



What is success?

Breaking free from stereotypes, says Samantha

Actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu, known for her outspoken views, shared her perspective on what success truly means to her.

The actress, who recently headlined the curtain-raiser event for the 11th edition of the Indian Film Festival of Sydney (IFFS), emphasized that, for women, success is not just about achievements but about breaking free from stereotypes and societal boxes. Samantha highlighted the importance of embracing freedom, wearing multiple hats, and challenging outdated notions of what women can or cannot do.

The 'Kushi' actress shared, "I have said this before — success, for me, is freedom. I don't wait for others to tell me that I am successful. Success is waking up with the freedom to do what you are passionate about. It is about not being put in a box and not being told what women can or cannot do. It is about wearing multiple hats and doing it well."

During an insightful session at Sydney's Powerhouse Museum, led by the festival director, Samantha also opened up about her personal and professional journey. The actress reflected on how she has navigated obstacles and continuously shaped her evolving career with determination and authenticity.

Samantha also spoke about stepping into the role of a producer, which she described as an empowering move that gives her the opportunity to champion diverse and meaningful stories.

— IANS

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

4 in one

The number of children's movies has come down in Sandalwood in recent years. Sees Kaddi, a film for children, is ready for release and is likely to hit the screens during the summer holidays.

Ratan Gangadhar debuts as a director in Sandalwood with this movie, though he has been associated with Sandalwood since 2012. "I made a few ad films. Sees Kaddi is a hyperlink anthology and all the stories join at one point of narration. I am not trying to convey a message to society through this movie. It is a slice of life," said Gangadhar.

The movie has four stories. Four different writers have penned the dialogues and screenplay for each. "Some real life incidents are the inspiration for the script. Audiences will find the stories relatable. The characters are related to pencil, pencil lead, eraser, and sharpener. The movie was screened at various film festivals and got good reviews and feedback," the director said, adding the movie is made with live-recorded sound.

The movie is bankrolled by Ratan Gangadhar, Sampath Shivashankar, and Kruthi Naidu. Akarsh Kamala is the writer for Vikram and Betal characters while Akshara Bharadwaj for Chikki, Sharath K Parvathapani for Raveesh, Jayant Venkat for Manji character, and Mahendra Gowda for Taufiq.

Play of six vices

Director PC Shekhar, known for his creative approach, has handled the megaphone with aplomb in this movie that revolves around six characters that represent the six enemies – desire, anger, greed, attachment, pride, and jealousy - of the mind. The screenplay is convincing and the selection of the actors is apt.

The movie begins with people attending politician Srinivasamurthy's funeral. The next scene is a tussle between Manisharma (Kaddipudi Chandru) and Nagaraj for a ticket to contest from the Vijayanagar Assembly constituency. Manisharma assigns Veda (Nakul Gowda) and his friend to catch Naga (Sai Krishna), Anu (Apoorva Bharadwaj), the daughter of late Srinivasamurthy, and Anu's sister. Veda succeeds in taking Naga, Anu and others hostage. Manisharma wants Veda to hand over the hostages but the latter has other ideas. In a flashback, the director narrates how Anu fell in love with Naga and how Manisharma was responsible for Anu's father's death. What happens to Veda and Anu is what the movie Bad is all about.

Bad
3.0 RATING | ★★★☆☆
- **DIRECTOR** PC Shekar
- **ACTORS** Nakul Gowda, Apoorva Bharadwaj, Manvita Kamath, Sai Krishna, Ashwini Polepalli
- **Duration** 100 minutes
- **Certification** U/A

As far as the performances of the actors are concerned, Nakul Gowda is convincing as a taskmaster who is ready to go to any extent to accomplish a task. His dialogue delivery, body language, and gestures are good. Apoorva Bharadwaj, known for playing bold and beautiful characters, plays one of the six enemies of the mind. Manvitha Kamath, as a farm labourer, has acted well. Kaddipudi Chandru is convincing as a [illegible]edy politician.

Some scenes and dialogues, especially the fight for the post of a tractor driver, are incongruous.

All in all, the movie is worth a watch if you like crime thrillers.

—Y Maheswara Reddy